

## LOAD BALANCING WITH MESH TAGGING

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5        One embodiment disclosed relates to a method of load balancing traffic in  
a switching mesh. A packet is received at a switch of the mesh. A MAC  
destination address is gathered from the packet. An entry in a MAC address  
table is found with the MAC destination address, and a switch identifier  
associated with the MAC destination address is obtained. An entry in a switch  
10    table is found with the switch identifier, and data associated with the switch  
identifier is obtained. A hash function is used on field data from the packet to  
generate a hash value, and the hash value and the associated data are used to  
generate an index value. An entry in the tag table is found with the index value,  
and a path tag associated with the index value is obtained. The path tag is  
15    inserted into the packet. The path tags may be weighted.